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NEWS RELEASE

Fire recovery milestone

Only a concrete slab remains of the Proserpine Mill stores building that was destroyed by fire in January.

Wilmar Sugar has started working through its options for a new stores building after the fire damaged structure was recently demolished.

On 10 January a blaze broke out at the stores building and caused significant structural damage.

It took more than three weeks for a demolition team to pull it down.

Mackay Region Work Execution Manager Sebastian Foti said completion of the demolition was a major milestone for the fire recovery project.

"It's been a mammoth effort to get rid of the old store," he said.

"The design of the building meant the roof was holding the side panels in place.

"The safest option for the demolition team was to pull down the building bit by bit," Mr Foti said.

In the meantime, an interim store has been set up to help mill employees get through the maintenance period and crush.

Wilmar Purchasing and Supply Manager Vaughan Jones said shipping containers were being used as temporary stores on site.

"They're home to some of the regularly used consumables and tools," he said.

"However, because of the size and design limitations of the containers, it means we have also had to set up an off-site store.

"It's a workable option for our people in the short term while we get on with designing and building a new stores building," Mr Jones said.

The temporary stores arrangement will not affect the mill during the crush.

The crushing season at Proserpine Mill is on track to start 30 June.

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The fire damaged stores building.



Demolition almost completed.